

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lighting to Mark 130th Anniversary of Pigeon Point Light House

On Saturday, November 16, 2002, California State Parks, Pigeon Point Hostel, and the United States Coast Guard will celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the 115-foot tall Pigeon Point Lighthouse, the tallest on the west coast. State Park docents will present lighthouse history talks from 11:30 to 4:30, and the Fog Signal Building will feature lighthouse videos, marine mammal exhibits, National Marine Sanctuary exhibits, and light refreshments. In addition, the Keeper's Store will be open from 10 am to 7:30 pm, featuring lighthouse-oriented books, clothing and gifts.

The highlight of the event is the annual lighting of the historic first order Fresnel lens from 6-8 pm. Visitors are welcome to view and photograph this special lighting--the only public lighting of its kind on the west coast--from the grounds adjacent to the lighthouse. Warm and layered clothing is recommended for the evening, and visitors are advised to arrive early in order to park. Flashlights will be helpful for returning to parked cars after dark. The event will be held rain or shine.

This year there will be no public tours of the lighthouse. (There will be tours of the historic grounds, but not of the tower itself.) The lighthouse tower has been closed due to damage to the upper ironwork. Recently the Coast Guard announced its intention to divest itself from ownership of 20 lighthouses in the U.S. including Pigeon Point. California State Parks is hopeful that it will be able to acquire and reopen the lighthouse.

Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park is located on Highway 1, 50 miles south of San Francisco, midway between Half Moon Bay and Santa Cruz. Park grounds are open daily from 8 am to sunset. Docents are on duty Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 to 4:00 to interpret lighthouse history and operate the Keeper's Store. For more information, the public may call the Pigeon Point informational recording at (650) 879-2120 or consult the website at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=533.

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